

Old Town, Lansing, MI

OUR MISSION

To protect and improve Michigan's treasured and vulnerable waterways for the benefit of fish and wildlife, recreation and sport.

Since our beginning we have made remarkable gains. In many cases, transformational changes.

Through our work we will inspire current and future generations to protect and care for our prized waterways.

OUR VISION

To make Michigan's waterways the envy of our Great Lakes industrial states.

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For the latest in news [follow us on Facebook!](#)



Lansing Rivers and River Trail Cleanups



Saturday, June 10, 2023
Friday, September 22, 2023



A LETTER FROM OUR FOUNDER

I am an '83 MSU graduate, long-distance solo paddler, author, president of i3 Marketing, LLC, and founder of Michigan Waterways Stewards. I moved back to Michigan this past summer where much of my paddling is now in the Lansing area and specifically on the Grand River and Red Cedar River.

We are blessed with incredible urban views which few cities can match. The Red Cedar River winds through lowlands, the campus of MSU, along several parks, and even passes Potter Park Zoo. When making your way through Lansing the Grand River is framed by tall buildings, condos, our famed river trail, and business districts buzzing in activity.

After a short portage around the Brenke Fish Ladder you soon disappear into a tree lined stretch of river typical of a rural river passage.

Michigan Waterways Stewards wasn't started because too often our local rivers and riverbanks are subject to unsightly litter, trash, and other urban debris. Or because longstanding river-wide obstructions make it difficult, and at times, impossible to navigate.

On the contrary, Michigan Waterways Stewards was created to reveal our two prized rivers, showcase a resurgent downtown, and create a top Mid-Michigan destination for recreation and sport.

When there is a need to overcome, we should take pride in the rallying of local businesses, clubs, civic organizations, college students, passionate individuals, and the growing support of local government. While we have made remarkable gains and achieved transformational change, there remains much to do.

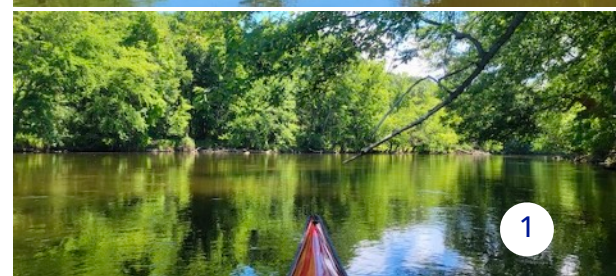
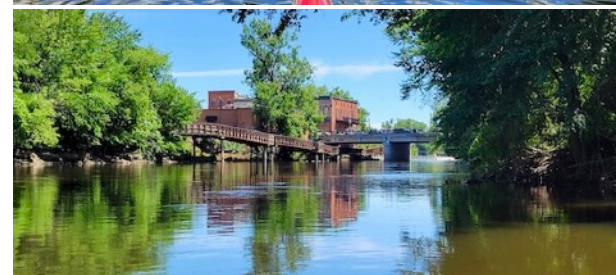
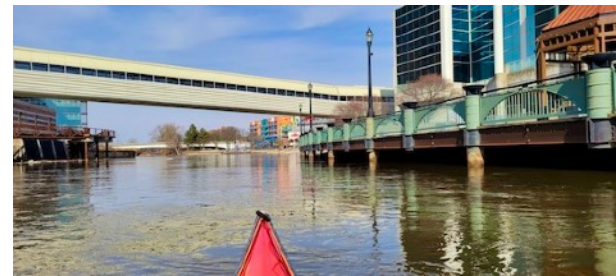
We are honored to have been asked by the City of Lansing to lead two city-wide rivers and river trail cleanups this year. The first is June 10 and the second September 22. Shortly after announcing our plan we received an outpouring of offers to support.

As awareness of our efforts are growing, so are the requests for our help in other areas in Michigan and even nearby states. We are thrilled to play a small part in improving our treasured waterways.

It is amazing the ease in which we can accomplish great things when we work together. Join us. Make an impact. This is our legacy.

Mike Stout
Founder and president, Michigan Waterways Stewards.

Protecting and improving our treasured waterways.





LANSING 2023 RIVERS & RIVER TRAIL CLEANUPS



MARK YOU CALENDARS

Saturday, June 10
Friday, September 22

Let's make Lansing area's Grand and Red Cedar Rivers, and our prized Lansing River Trail, look their best ever. With your help, we will!

Equipment, food and drink, and swag provided for all who attend!

Since our beginning not long ago, with the help of local businesses, clubs, civic organizations, passionate volunteers, and the growing support of government, we have removed tons of litter and trash from our rivers, removed longstanding river-wide obstructions, and cleared our riverbanks and adjoining parks of unsightly evidence of urban living.

We are thrilled that the City of Lansing has recognized our work and has asked us to lead two city-wide rivers and river trails cleanups.

Join us. Become a river angel and make an impact.

If you, your club, friends and neighbors, or business, can't make it on our main event June 10 and September 22 dates, no worries. There is always time to make a difference. Join us during any of our three river cleanup days:

- June 8, 9, or 10
- September 20, 21, or 22

If you have interest to be an event partner or sponsor, be a volunteer partner organization, or participate alone, we would love to hear from you. Simply drop us a note via our [Contact Us](#) page and we'll get back to you ASAP.

Join us. Experience the joy and ease in which we accomplish great things when working together.

For the latest in event news, visit:
www.miwaterwaysstewards.org/lansing-rivers-cleanup-2023.html



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

SATURDAY, JUNE 10, 2023 JUN 8, 9, 10*
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2023 SEP 20, 21, 22*

- Join us. Become a River Angel and make an impact.
- Equipment provided. Food, drinks, and FREE merchandise for all!

*Can't make the main event date? No worries. There is always time to make a difference. Join us during any of our three event days.



EVENT PARTNERS AND SPONSORS



VOLUNTEER PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS



www.MiWaterwaysStewards.org

A special thanks to all of those who are making our Lansing rivers and river trail cleanup events possible:

Event Partners and Sponsors

City of Lansing; Adrian and Blissfield Railroad Company; i3 Marketing, LLC; Moosejaw; Great Lakes Watercraft; Werner Paddles - Healthy Waters; and Mother and Earth Baby Boutique.

Volunteer Partner Organizations

RSVP: Retired & Senior Volunteer Programs of Ingham, Eaton, & Clinton Counties; EGLE: Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy; Lansing Community College; and Rotary Club of Lansing.

If you too wish to support, [drop us a note](#). We would love to have you join us.



WE THANK OUR VALUED PARTNERS AND SPONSORS

IT IS BECAUSE OF YOU OUR LANSING RIVERS AND RIVER TRAILS WILL MUCH IMPROVE.



The Adrian & Blissfield Railroad Company is an Okemos based company, They are a short line railroad that also doubles as a holding company operating a total of five short-line railroads in southeastern Michigan.

In addition to the historic Lenawee County line, ADBF operates the Charlotte Southern Railroad, the Detroit Connecting Railroad, the Jackson & Lansing Railroad, and the Lapeer Industrial Railroad linking us to the Canadian National (CN), CSX, and Norfolk Southern (NS) railroads.

www.ABRailroad.com



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We only do cool stuff.

We are notable.

We love our customers.

We are engagingly engaged.

We are Moosejaw.

We love our planet.

www.Moosejaw.com



INSIGHTS - INNOVATION - IMPACT

i3 Marketing, LLC is a strategic marketing and creative services firm specializing in leading transformational change and fast tracking business initiatives.

They have been instrumental in bringing the Michigan Waterways Stewards vision to life via the development of winning strategy, branding, and integrated communications to engage like-minded businesses, clubs, civic organizations, government, and passionate volunteers.

www.i3-Marketing.com



GREAT LAKES
WATERCRAFT

ADVENTURE, ACCESSIBILITY,
RESPECT FOR NATURE, AND RELATIONSHIPS

Great Lakes Watercraft is a family-owned business operating out of SE Michigan. They are a locally operated online store and a premier maritime distributor in the Midwest.

It is their mission to provide their customers a gateway to adventure and exploration of the outdoors.

www.GreatLakesWatercraft.com

OUR VOLUNTEER PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS



Retired and Senior Volunteer Programs of Ingham, Eaton, & Clinton Counties.

www.community@rsvp-lansing.com



<https://lansingrotary.org>



www.lcc.edu



Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy.

www.michigan.gov/egle



IT'S A LAUNCH!

Introducing Michigan Waterways Rescue Unit

We officially introduced Michigan Waterways Stewards at the [28th Annual Quiet Adventures Symposium](#).

Here we shared our purpose and vision, and had on display the centerpiece of our Michigan Waterways Rescue Unit (MWRU). MWRU is a first of its kind concept that will provide all the materials needed for any group, small or large, to conduct waterways stewardship.

It will consist of an enclosed cargo trailer containing an inflatable catamaran, electric engine, canoes, Jon boat, PFDs, paddles, 4x4 ATV, trash picker grabbers, trash grabbing nets, thick ml trash bags, contractor bags, buckets, ropes, chain and cable, grappling hook, industrial magnets, first aid kits, an equipment cleansing station, and more.

Waterways stewardship in the past has often been limited to those select few who are skilled on the water, environmentally minded, and have the resources to help clean and clear our waterways. This represents a very small part of our population. While we appreciate the generous efforts and hard work of these few, and they are worthy of our praise, this model is simply not scalable nor sustainable.

MWRU is a game changer. Response to the concept was great. We will be to provide all the resources to allow for safe, efficient, and sustainable waterways stewardship. If you wish to contribute to the purchase of those items needed, drop us a note, we would love to hear from you.



Michigan Waterways Stewardship

Projects Summary (October 2022 thru March 2023)

Stewardship: Grand River Railroad Bridge Cleanup (N. MLK Highway); Tecumseh Park Cleanup; Red Cedar River Assessment (Kruger's Landing to Grand River); Red Cedar River Railroad Bridge Cleanup (S. Cedar Street); Grand River Assessment (Jackson); Red Cedar River Cleanup (MSU Campus); Cherry Hill Park Cleanup; Grand River (I 496) Cleanup; Abandoned Homeless Encampment Cleanup (N. MLK Highway); Grand River Assessment (Lansing to Grand Ledge, and Jackson); Red Cedar River Assessment (Williamston to Lansing); Red Cedar Assessment (Kruger's Landing to East Lansing); Red Cedar River Metal Impediments Removed (Railroad Bridge); Red Cedar Assessment (Meridian Riverfront Park); Red Cedar River Cleanup (Lansing); Red Cedar River Cleanup (west Okemos and East Lansing).

Education - Group Presentations: Red Cedar Pathway; Meridian Township Board - Townhall; Meridian Township Parks and Recreation director, LuAnn Meisner; Meridian Township Supervisor Patricia Jackson and Dan Opsommer, Deputy Township Manager; Williamstown Township Supervisor; Wanda Bloomquist; Williamston Sunrise Rotary. **Education - PSAs:** "Keep A Lid On It" and "Come Clean - Leave Clean Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers."

Advocacy: City of Lansing Public Works Department - Improved grounds care; Michigan Legislative Service Bureau Printing Services - Improved grounds care; Meridian Township Okemos Road Bridge Construction - Improved site management.



WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING.

Such an incredible transformation. I am blown away by the grass root efforts, and caretaker responsibility for our shared treasure, our river systems. Thank you Michigan Waterways Stewards for your impressive and continuing efforts.

Andy Fedewa
City of Lansing, Principal Planner

Thank you, Waterways Stewards, for your continued enthusiasm and dedication to protecting our waterways! Your passion is contagious.

Jayne Higo

Michigan Waterways Stewards is the best thing that has ever happened to our local rivers.

Tom Cannon

Fantastic work on the river clean-up! Your organization is exactly what we need in the State of Michigan.

Barney Boyer
EGLE, Environmental Quality Analyst

I had no idea this wonderful organization has been working so hard (and in such difficult conditions) to keep them clean. Thank you again!

Nick Hall

Wow! Thank you for taking our aquatic invasive species information and running with it!

Joanne Foreman
Communications Coordinator, DNR, EGLE, MDARD

We applaud your determination and diligence and we THANK YOU & CONGRATULATE you and all your volunteers.

Barb Shipman

Thanks again for your responsible actions to promote a clean, healthy, and navigable river system in our watershed.

Fred Cowles
President, Middle Grand River Organization of Watersheds

EXAMPLES OF OUR WORK



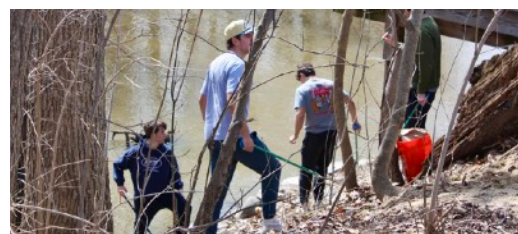
Grand River
Railroad Bridge,
North Lansing.
Before and after.



Grand River
Homeless Encampment,
North Lansing.
Before and after.



Grand River
Tecumseh Park
North Lansing.
Before and after.



Delta Sigma Phi
In action.
Red Cedar River,
East Lansing



To catch the latest in news, special events details, and River Angel efforts, follow us on Facebook.



MICHIGAN WATERWAYS STEWARDS WE'RE FOREVER GRATEFUL FOR OUR RIVER ANGELS

It is through the collaborative efforts of passionate individuals, clubs and businesses, schools, and government, that we are able to achieve all that we have. We call them River Angels. We wish to thank each for their work, passion, and dedication.

We have been blessed with the support of a large number of extraordinary River Angels. We wish to recognize a few whose exemplary efforts excite and encourage others to participate as well.

Michigan Waterways Stewards 2022 Valued Partners

- Top Business Adrian and Blissfield Railroad Company
- Living our Mission Matthew Edmond
- Top Volunteer Patrick Harrington
- Waterways Ambassador George Stockman
- Top Government Entity City of Lansing Parks and Recreation
- Promotional Partner Jayne Higo - Lansing State Journal

To learn more about our 2022 Valued Partners, [click here](#) or visit our website and click on tab titled, "Top Honorees." To view our River Angels in action, [click here](#) or visit our website and click on the tab titled, "River Angels in Action."

River Angels In Action

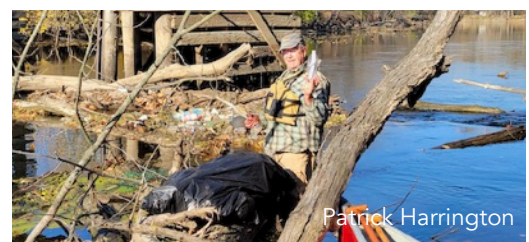
Aaron Douglas, Andrew Fedewa, Anthony Crabtree, Anthony Scott, Autumn Edmonds, Brett Kaschinske, Chris Bagwell, Jeff Hensley, Don Chandler, Lance Garrison, Ken McDermott, Dennis Ludwig, Roger Miller, Shayne Salsbury, Randy Werner, Clint Knoblauch, Anthony Scott, Anthony Crabtree, Clint Knoblauch, Connie Cannon, Cynthia Donovan, Dan Koch, David Ford, Dennis Ludwig, Don Chandler, George Stockman, Jeff Hensley, Jim Mazzola, Ken McDermott, Kim Mazzola, Lance Garrison, Matthew Edmonds, Mike Stout, Patrick Harrington, Paul Malewski, Randy Werner, Richard Bailey, Roger Miller, Shayne Salsbury, Steve Darby, Thad Vance, Tony Kuhlman, Christine Pearson, Michael Rhadigan, CJ Brenton, Will Grenolds, Abishek Kumar, James Ikler, John Murray, Benjamin Jackson, Jack Kirkwood, Christopher Cording, Matthew Kosak, Spencer Ances, Jonah Kalawa, Jake Van Horn, Jake Pelton, Aiden Koechley, Brendan Woellecke, Timothy McKay, AJ Gordon, Lucas Hicks, Spencer Rajewski, Oscar Henderson, Zach Kaplan, Kai Cyr, Andrew Degidio, Gage Farrow, Peter Dewan, Bill McMillan, Maribeth Fletcher, Sung Lee, Cliff Walls, and Emma Campbell.



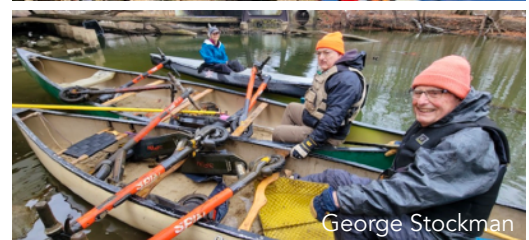
Adrian and Blissfield Railroad Company



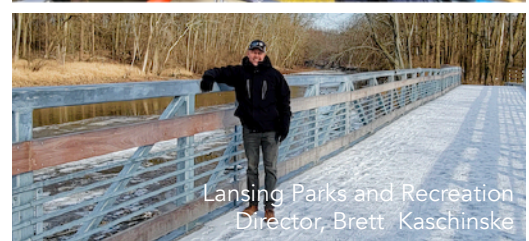
Matthew Edmond



Patrick Harrington



George Stockman



Lansing Parks and Recreation
Director, Brett Kaschinske



Lansing State Journal,
Opinion News Assistant, Jayne Higo

MICHIGAN WATERWAYS 2022 VALUED PARTNERS

MSU'S DELTA SIGMA PHI FRATERNITY LEADS A COMMUNITY-WIDE RED CEDAR RIVER CELEBRATION.



What began as a response to a City of East Lansing resident complaint turned into a community-wide Red Cedar River celebration. Thirty joined in the day's cleanup festivities.

"When the City of East Lansing asked for our help with a Red Cedar River cleanup, I first thought of the Delta Sigma Phi (Delta Sigs) fraternity. With their riverside location and history of community support, it made sense to partner with them," shares Mike Stout, Michigan Waterways Stewards founder and president. Within minutes of our meeting with Delta Sig's Gage Farrow, their Sergeant at Arms, without pause he enthusiastically offered his fraternity's support.



A plan was put in place to clean the river, clear the riverbank, and grounds just above, beginning at the west Okemos railroad bridge to Bogue Street. Work would begin after spring break.

Along this stretch of the Red Cedar River there is light business, commercial, and high density residential living. With East Grand River nearby and sloping paved parking lots leading to the river, any loose litter is likely to make its way to the Red Cedar River. Then there are the factors of critters rummaging through trash, unclosed commercial dumpsters, and other human activity contributing to unsightly and littered river conditions.



Upon our announcing a cleanup date, to take advantage of a dry balmy day just a few days away, offers of support from across the community quickly came in. East Lansing Rotary was the first to jump in, led by Peter Dewan. Friends of the Red Cedar, led by George Stockman, would be there too. City of East Lansing and Meridian Township offered material and other support.

Delta Sig's Gage Farrow shares, "We got a bigger turnout than I had originally expected from our chapter. This community project really resonated with our fraternity. It was great seeing the passion and support from other clubs, organizations, and nearby municipalities. We look forward to leading future Red Cedar River stewardship projects, and offering support elsewhere, to make a positive difference in our community."

East Lansing Rotarian, Peter Dewan says, "The East Lansing Rotary was pleased to help. A principal goal of the East Lansing Rotary is to volunteer our time to worthy projects that will benefit our community. Environmental stewardship is one of many areas where we contribute volunteer efforts to live up to our motto which is "Service above Self"."

Christine Pearson, with Michigan Waterways Stewards says, "I am really proud of these young men. Their commitment and the work they accomplished was remarkable. It was truly transformational."

Stout added, "We are blessed with an incredible community. I am particularly proud of the Delta Sigs. Their enthusiasm, leadership, large numbers, and promise of future support, makes it a pleasure to work with them."

To learn more about this Red Cedar River cleanup and view more photos from this event, visit: www.MiWaterwaysStewards.org and click on the page titled, "[River Angels In Action.](#)"



KEEP A LID ON IT!

Do your part. Make an Impact.
Close the lid to prevent trash and litter from
polluting our treasured and vulnerable waterways.



This is a public service announcement from Michigan Waterways Stewards.
www.MiWaterwaysStewards.org

KEEP A LID ON IT

A Michigan Waterways Stewards PSA

Michigan Waterways Stewards **KEEP A LID ON IT!** campaign evolved from the observations made during a 21-mile Red Cedar River assessment from Williamston to the confluence of the Grand River.

It was a windy day and beginning at the railroad bridge crossing in west Okemos to Bogue Street on MSU's campus, the Red Cedar River and its riverbanks were covered in litter, trash, and other urban debris. It was noticed that the top of 'every' visible commercial dumpster was left open, making it easy for the wind to lift up and carry any untagged, lightweight litter.

Of course, not all of the litter seen on our Red Cedar River's riverbanks and in the water was from open dumpsters. Adjoining the stretch of river is business, industry, and high density residential living, as well as East Grand River Drive. This area is largely paved and any loose debris is likely to be blown, or washed, toward our Red Cedar River.

The **KEEP A LID ON IT!** campaign is intended to act as friendly reminder the importance of keeping the lid on our large commercial dumpsters. This will help prevent any lightweight loose litter from being carried away in a light wind and polluting our open space, riverbanks, and waterways.

It only takes a few seconds, and a little effort, to make a big impact.

A special thanks goes out to Meridian Township's Emma Campbell, Land Preservation, for her interest with this campaign. With her help, it has been customized for those who may be either Granger Waste Services or Waste Management customers, with additional Windy Day Tips offered from Granger.

To learn more visit: www.miwaterwaysstewards.org/keep-a-lid-on-it.html. If you wish to share this PSA with your employees, residents, or other, drop us a note and we can give you the PSA in either a horizontal or vertical design, in either the colors of Granger Waste Services or Waste Management, and in either .pdf or .jpg format.



KEEP A LID ON IT!

Do your part. Make an Impact.
Close the lid to prevent trash
and litter from polluting
our treasured and vulnerable
waterways.



This is a public service announcement from
Michigan Waterways Stewards.
www.MiWaterwaysStewards.org



COME CLEAN ♦ LEAVE CLEAN

Protect Our Treasured Waterways

STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!

Be A Good Steward. Clean. Drain. Dry.
StopAquaticHitchhikers.org





MID-MICHIGAN RIVERS & RIVER TRAIL CLEANUPS

Event	Location	Date
• Earth Day	National	April 22, 2023
• LBWL & Impression 5 Science Center Adopt A River	Lansing	May 13, 2023
• National Rivers Month	National	June 2023
• Michigan Waterways Stewards Rivers and River Trail Cleanup	Lansing	June 10, 2023
• Thorn Apple River Clean Up	Caledonia	September 16, 2023
• Michigan Waterways Stewards Rivers and River Trail Cleanup	Lansing	September 22, 2023

Earth Day is an event held each year on April 22 to demonstrate support for environmental protection. First held in 1970, it now includes a wide range of events coordinated globally by EARTHDAY.ORG.

Each year [Mother and Earth Baby Boutique](#), located in Old Town Lansing, celebrates Earth Day by raising money for a special environmental cause. We are thrilled that Michigan Waterways Stewards is this year's beneficiary. Stop by and fill their window tree with leaves. Each leaf is a \$5 donation.

BWL & Impression 5 Science Center **Adopt a River** is an annual event that encourages businesses, unions, schools and civic groups to adopt sections of the Grand and Red Cedar rivers and to keep their banks and nearby areas clean and free from litter. This year's event is being held on May 13. [Click here](#) to learn more.

National Rivers Month is celebrated in June every year to showcase the importance of rivers across the globe. The UN established 'Water for Life Decade' (2005 - 2015) in an attempt to spread awareness about saving water resources. National Rivers Month is a continued effort initiated by famous Canadian conservationist Mark Angelo.

To celebrate National Rivers month Michigan Waterways Stewards is partnering with City of Lansing with the first of its two city-wide rivers and river trail cleanup on June 10. [Click here](#) to learn more.

To celebrate our treasured rivers and prized water trail, Michigan Waterways Stewards and the City of Lansing are partnering on two community-wide **Lansing Rivers and River Trail Cleanups** on June 10 and September 22. Food, drink, equipment, and swag provided. Join us. Make an Impact. This is our Legacy. [Click here](#) to learn more.

The Thornapple River Watershed Council is partnering with Lower Grand River Organization of Watersheds and Ada Parks to provide a family-friendly community event with its **28th Annual Thornapple Valley Cleanup and Jamboree** held on September 16, 2023. [Click here](#) to learn more.

Celebrate Earth Day

Become a River Angel!

Join Mother & Earth in filling their window tree with leaves. Each leaf is a \$5 donation to the Michigan Waterways Stewards. Your money will stay in our community to help clean up our rivers.

Purchase your leaf before the end of April at Mother & Earth: Toys + Baby
100 E Cesar E Chavez Ave, Old Town Lansing

